

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Our company, Winco, Inc. based in Winchester IL. has provided local dial-up internet access for 6 years in Winchester and several surrounding communities all with populations under 2000. We were the first to bring this dial up service to these communities. Now we are deploying DSL service in Winchester by colocating in the Verizon CO. The community of Winchester, with a population of 1800 people, had to wait until 1998 for Verizon to install digital equipment to allow services like call waiting, call forwarding, and be able to pick our own long distance provider. It will be years before Verizon ever deploys a service like dsl in Winchester. That is why we have taken the steps both financial and regulatory to bring this service to our community. If the 1996 Telecom act is changed either through legislation or rule making by the FCC and we are subsequently shut out of the upper frequency spectrum on a copper pair our company will be saddled with the debt from a low interest loan provided by our local Community Development group. With this loan we have been able to buy the dsl equipment and pay some of the expenses incurred to acquire Local Exchange Authority, negotiate an Interconnection Agreement with Verizon, and the expense for installation of all the backhaul circuits to provide the bandwidth to support our new service. In essence, if we are denied access to that high frequency spectrum or Verizon is allowed to price it so there is no reasonable profit left for us to operate we could very possibly go out of business. In addition, the Community will have to wait probably years for dsl service like they did for services other communities took for granted years ago. There is nothing preventing Verizon from deploying dsl service in a community like Winchester, IL except their own lack of interest.

Sincerely,

Michael Dappert - President
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Winchester, IL 62694